GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:101
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Awareness about Procurement Process
Shirole Shri Anil

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are still selling their produce below the MSP due to lack of awareness about the procurement process, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to create awareness amongst the farmers;

(b) whether the Government has evaluated the efficiency of FCI in procuring foodgrains, if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the corrective steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to liquidate the surplus stock of foodgrains to make room for fresh procurement?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a): No, Madam. The steps taken to create awareness amongst the farmers are at Annex-I.

(b): The High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (M.P.) and former Union Food Minister with experts and officials from the State Governments and FCI has evaluated the performance of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in its report submitted in January, 2015 with respect to three objectives namely, giving an effective price support to farmers, to provide foodgrains for Public Distribution System (PDS) and to maintain satisfactory level of buffer stocks to ensure food security of the country. HLC has concluded that FCI is not directly responsible for many of these things as its hands are tied and has suggested that a desirable solution to FCI's restructuring can be found only by looking at the issue of food security somewhat holistically. HLC has made several recommendations. Government has finalized its decisions on the recommendations of the HLC and asked FCI to implement the same. The HLC recommendations related to procurement of foodgrains and the steps taken thereon are at Annex-II

(c): Surplus stocks of foodgrains is liquidated through tenders under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). A quantity of approximately 42 lakh MT of wheat has been sold in 2014-15 under OMSS.
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